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**SUPPLEMENT TO
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT Labor Supply/War Industry/Stockpiling/Airfields

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1. In Bulgaria, certainly until 1948, there was very little, if any, concentration of heavy industry. [redacted], until the new Political Order (The Peoples Republic) Bulgarian industrial economy was essentially rooted in agriculture, ranching, and farming. The Bulgarian peasantry for countless generations was firmly attached to the soil. Universal consensus would presume that the peasantry of Bulgaria was satisfied with its role in the overall economy. Such, however, was not the truth. Strangely, although there are no more than eight million people in the country, residing in an area of perhaps 46 thousand square miles, agricultural scientists were long aware that there was insufficient arable land to provide labor and a frugal living for the total agrarian population of Bulgaria. Once the Communist order became a reality in the country, a reservoir of laborers was available to them when they began their propaganda campaign for industrialization. Many of the agrarian workers who had been unable to provide for themselves and their families proved to be a willing source of labor for projected and contemplated industries which the Communists proposed. No propaganda was actually necessary - thousands flocked to such cities as Kabanluk Samokov and Sofia. In many cases Communist propaganda contained many kernels of truth. By way of example, they pointed up the following:

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- a. During World War I and World War II, Bulgaria was almost totally dependent [] for ordnance, military equipment, airplanes, machine tools, radar, etc. The new order proposed the elimination of this status of dependency under the direction and tutelage of her protector and friend, the USSR. 50X1-HUM
- b. Not only would she assist Bulgaria in industrial development, but she would provide her with outlets for raw materials. Why even she, the USSR, would prove an excellent friend and an outlet for whatever raw material surplus Bulgaria might produce or mine. 50X1-HUM
2. [] Bulgarian effort to industrialize was concentrated primarily in and around two cities, Samokov and Kazanluk.
- a. The idea of developing Samokov as a metallurgical center is not something new - that is, the idea is not original with the Communist government of the country. Since Samokov and environs are rich in minerals the Bulgarian government for many years eyed the region and was fully aware of its industrial potential. Strategically, the site is ideally located in that it is sufficiently removed from foreign boundaries, is in a region plentifully endowed with water, and has excellent rail and highway facilities. Unfortunately, the pre-World War II government of Bulgaria, always in dire need of money, deemed the development of Samokov too expensive. However, with the end of World War II the Communist government began to act on the idea. With a poorly paid and adequate labor supply, they completed a dam at Samokov (the largest in Eastern Europe). By 1947, a new smelter was completed. [] Samokov was referred to as the metallurgical center of the country. 50X1-HUM
- b. The city of Kazanluk and its surrounding territory was by 1947 considered the only other strictly industrial sector of Bulgaria. After World War II, an electric railway connecting Kazanluk with Sofia was completed. [] the industry of the area was directed almost totally to the production of military goods, such as armament and explosives. [] all Bulgarian armament and ordnance was repaired at Kazanluk to 1948. 50X1-HUM
3. Up to 1948, there was very little stockpiling of critical items in Bulgaria. The only well-developed storage area [] was located at Ikhtiman (a city of six thousand people, about 25 miles southeast of Sofia). Large quantities of aviation gas were stored in underground tanks. [] the storage facilities contained sufficient aviation gas to supply the large airfield at Vratsheba for a period of three months. 50X1-HUM
4. [] During World War II eight-motored [] planes used this field extensively. The runways were all paved (concrete). The field was equipped with [] radar. [] Vratsheba was considered to be one of the largest airfields in the country, and was, at that time, equipped with radar, concrete runways, and control towers. 50X1-HUM

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